GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4597
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2016
Fault in Packing Materials of ATMS
Simha Shri Prathap

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HERML) has recommended use of the Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE) designed mines having Fibre Reinforced Plastic (FRP), rather than the existing metal containers and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any consultations were held with HERML about the Anti-Tank Mines (ATMs) manufactured by the ARDE, if so, the details and the outcome thereof and if not, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Controller of Quality Assurance (CQA) has cautioned that stocking of these mines in ammunition depots is adversely affecting the explosive safety and operational preparedness, which could lead to dangerous accidents and if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto; and

(d) the corrective measures taken to overhaul the manufacturing of ATMs and build sheds in the Central Ammunition Depots which could withstand external impact?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR)

(a) High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL), has not recommended the use of Fibre Reinforced Plastic (FRP) material in place of existing metal containers. However, Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE) has selected the FRP as the material for packing boxes for the mines because the FRP technology is matured and material is fire resistant with high specific strength (i.e. Strength to Weight ratio). It is also possible to make boxes leak proof, hermetically sealed and absorb shocks during handling and transportation.

(b) to (d): Anti-Tank Mines (ATMs) are not manufactured by the ARDE. ARDE is only the design and development agency. The ATMs are produced by the Ordnance factories since early '70s and the Authority Holding Sealed Particulars (AHSP) for these mines is the Controller of Quality Assurance (Ammunition) [CQA(A)].

Exudation of TNT (Tri-Nitro Toluene) was observed from some of the mines due to flows in certain manufacturing process. The rectifications/repairs proposed were evaluated by Intensified Standard Accelerating Trial Category-B (ISAT-B) at ARDE.

Meanwhile, task force are created time to time for design review and modification as a regular practice.

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